**Sample Graphic Organizer for “Reading a Poem”**

What is the message you think the poet is trying to convey in this poem? What emotions or feelings does the poem elicit in you? Now go back and take another look at the title, the form and structure, and the content. Does the evidence in the poem support your interpretation? Are there specific elements in the poem that engender these emotions or feelings?

What figures of speech are prevalent in the poem? Similes? Metaphors? Is there a controlling metaphor that operates throughout the poem?

What words or phrases directly relate to the topic or subject of the poem? Indirectly relate? Does this diction form a pattern?

On the surface, what seems to be the topic or subject of this poem?

Is the content of the poem organized according to a definite structure? Questions and answers? Least to greatest? Beginning, middle, and end of a story? Problem/solution? Examples to conclusion?

How many lines make up the poem? If the poem is divided into stanzas, how are the stanzas structured? Are they alike? Different? Does the end of one stanza move to the beginning of the next without an end stop? Are the stanzas about different ideas or topics?

What pattern, if any, can you discern involving end rhyme or meter? How does this pattern or lack of pattern impact the ideas being conveyed in the poem? What sounds, other than rhyme, do you hear repeated in the poem?

Form/Structure Content

What does the title suggest? Do you think it’s literal or figurative?